

## Erin Bren-Appert

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**From:** Doug Peppmeier <Doug.Peppmeier@tdhengineering.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 11:31 AM  
**To:** Erin Bren-Appert  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment regarding FPP-20-11 Rolling Acres  
**Attachments:** PublicTrafficCommentResponses.pdf

Erin,

Attached is a response from our traffic consultant in regards to the public comments received. Also, can Bob attend the meeting via WebEx or conference call in case there is additional discussion in regards to traffic?

Thanks,

**Douglas Peppmeier, PE | Vice President / Regional Manager**

**TD&H Engineering**

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>>> Erin Bren-Appert <ebrenappert@flathead.mt.gov> 8/11/2020 2:47 PM >>>  
Hi Doug,

All written public comments regarding Rolling Acres Subdivision that have been received to date are available on our website at: [https://flathead.mt.gov/planning\\_zoning/planningboard.php](https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/planningboard.php).

Thank you,

**Erin Appert**

Planner I  
Flathead County Planning and Zoning  
40 11<sup>th</sup> Street W, Suite 220  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
751-8200



September 8, 2020

Mark Mussman, Director  
Flathead County Planning & Zoning  
40 11<sup>th</sup> Street West, Ste. 220  
Kalispell, MT 59901



Re: Rolling Acres Subdivision Traffic Impact Study Public Comment Responses

Dear Mark, Abelin Traffic Services has developed supplemental information for the May 2020 Rolling Acres Subdivision Traffic Impact Study. This additional information is in response to the public comments provided to the Flathead County Planning & Zoning office. The public traffic comment topics have been aggregated and the detailed responses to the comments and questions are as follow:

Public Comment 1. Columbia Falls Stage Road is narrow and is unsafe.

Columbia Falls Stage Road currently has a paved width of 22-24 feet, which is below the current Flathead County standard of 24 feet minimum for collector roadways. However, the current road cross-section is typical of many roadways within the Flathead Valley and there is no evidence that vehicle crashes occur along Columbia Falls Stage Road at a higher rate than other similar roads within the County. While it would be desirable to widen and update many of the roads within the valley, it would not be appropriate to place the burden of widening an entire roadway onto a single residential development. Flathead County will have the opportunity to discuss road cross-sections with the developers of the Rolling Acres Subdivision prior the final approval of the project and may require appropriate road widening as needed to bring sections of Columbia Falls Stage Road up to County standards. However, it should be noted that while fully widening Columbia Falls Stage Road is a good long-term goal for Flathead County, widening the road will likely have the effect of increasing travel speeds without increased enforcement efforts.

Public Comment 2. The intersection of Columbia Falls Stage Road and Highway 35 has limited sight distance and it unsafe

The intersection of Columbia Falls Stage Road and Highway 35 currently has more than 1,500 feet (1/4 mile) of sight distance in both directions from the intersection, which is more than sufficient to safely access the roadway with the current speed limit on Highway 35. The recorded vehicle crash data available from MDT for the intersection did not indicate significant or abnormal crash trends at the intersection.

Public Comment3. Other developments in the area were not taken into consideration

Other developments have been planned along Columbia Falls Stage Road in the past and some have received approval from Flathead County. However, none of the proposed developments are currently active projects and it is not known if they will ever be developed.

If the Flathead County Planning & Zoning Board has addition questions regarding traffic from the project, I will be at the public meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> and will be available to answer additional questions as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob Abelin', is written above the printed name.

Bob Abelin, P.E. PTOE  
Abelin Traffic Services, Inc.